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SOURCE US national who is a highly placed executive in a US oil company. During August and September 1951, he made a trip which included all the Middle East countries except Iran. The purpose of his trip was to inspect oil installations, both producing and marketing, and to get an idea of the political situation in these countries.

1. While I was in Cairo, I had a chance to have a conversation with the Grand Mufti. The Grand Mufti told me that there were three threats to stability in the Middle East:

A) Israel B) British imperialism and C) The USSR. Since the Soviet threat is more potential than actual, it is necessary for people in the Middle East to concentrate on the threat of Israel and British imperialism, which is actual. The Grand Mufti said that he was not one of those who wished to sweep Israel into the sea, since Israel is an actuality and one cannot turn back the pages of history. He then went on to say that the US and the Arab nations could be friends under the conditions: A) The US must develop its own foreign policy and not string along behind the British; B) The US must be neutral in regard to Israel. When I asked him if by being neutral he meant that the US should stand aside if Israel committed aggression against its neighbors, he said that the Arabs would outnumber the Jews by a very considerable margin and that they did not fear Israel. He then went on to say that the Israelis won the war because the British helped the Arab legion and the Iraqi army just at the moment when they were about to defeat the Jews. He concluded his remarks on the subject with the observation that a wound with dirt in it will never heal.

2. By implication, the Grand Mufti was saying that he was a little about the whole Middle East situation and not just the Arab nations. He said that when I was in Turkey, I heard one of the leading Arabs about the possibility of a holy war. He said that he was a Jew and that he was a Jew.

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